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10 Common Flaws in Incident Response Plans

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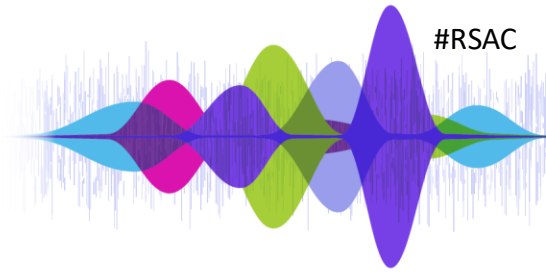

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Action Plan

- Who is Alex Waintraub
- Introduction
  - Laying the foundation of Incident Response
- What is an Incident Response Plan
  - Understanding the definition and necessity of an Incident Response Plan.
- Top 10 IRP Flaws & Best Practices
- Conclusion

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- Senior Director of CyberSecurity @ *VMG Health*
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  - Navigator @ *Empath MSP*
  - Previously Worked @ *CYGNVS, Arete, BNY Mellon, Booz Allen Hamilton*

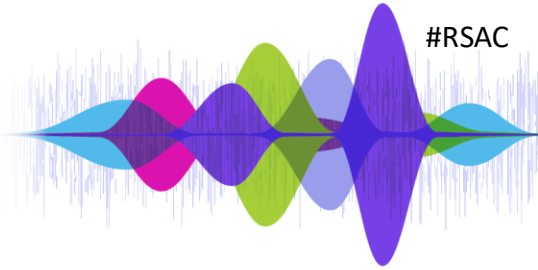
Introduction

- **Cyber Attacks are Inevitable**
  - Organizations must prepare for attacks, transitioning from 'if' to 'when'.
- **Low Preparedness Rates**
  - In 2023, F-Secure reported **only 45**% of businesses HAD an Incident Response Plan!
- **Historical Comparison**
  - IBM's 2019 report showed only **33**% with plans, indicating slow growth in readiness.
- **Common Flaws Persist**
  - Many organizations struggle with flaws in their plans, impacting recovery efforts.
- **Focus of Presentation**
  - This presentation will explore the top ten flaws in incident response plans.

"There are only two type of companies in the world: those that have been breached and know it, and those that have been breached and dont know it."

– Ted Schlein

What is an Incident Response Plan?



CISA Definition

- Defines Roles and Responsibilities
- Guides Key Activities
- Includes Key Personnel
- Establishes Communication Strategies
- Proactive and Strategic Framework

Flaw #1: Failing to Plan

If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail

- Identify and prioritize your organization's biggest risks to focus your incident response planning efforts.
- Preparation is the key to your incident response plan. No matter what you think, you can never over-prepare for the unexpected.

Flaw #2: Unclear Roles and Responsibilities

Flaw #3: Siloed Communication Strategies

Flaw #4: Inadequate Communication Strategy

Flaw #5: Neglecting Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Flaw #6: Inadequate External Third-Party Engagement

Flaw #7: Static Incident Response Plans

Flaw #8: Failure to Consider Worst-Case Scenarios

Flaw #9: Lack of IRP Testing

Flaw #10: The Ineffective Plan Execution

“Apply” Slide

Identify + Mitigate = Resilient IR Plan

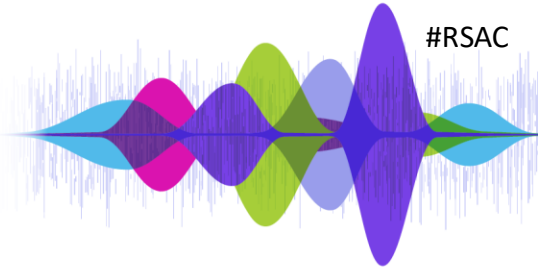
Identify the flaws: Understand the common IR flaws

Mitigate the Risks: Proactive strategies to fix weaknesses

Strengthen your Response: Testing and Execution Improvements!

Every Organization Must Test and Refine Their IR Plan!

Prepare + Test = *Effective Incident Response*



- Next week you should:
  - Review your current IR Plan for gaps.
  - Identify Key stakeholders in your IR process.
- In the first three months following this presentation you should:
  - Conduct a tabletop exercise to test your IR Plan
  - Define Roles & Responsibilities in case of an incident
  - Establish an IR Communication plan
- Within six months you should:
  - Implement regular IR plan testing and reviews
  - Engage external experts for IR Retainer services

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Thank You!

For More Information:

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